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Students honored at state capitol

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Indianapolis

Catherine Hamilton hasn't started college yet, but she already knows how to use cutting-edge computer software programs. She was one of seven Greenfield-Central students who took part Tuesday in Rotunda Day at the Indiana State House, where the students showed legislators and others their technology acumen.

"It's good to make the connections with people because later on we can recognize them and talk to them about what else is going on with Project Lead the Way," Hamilton said. "They recognized that we are very advanced in what we do."



The Project Lead the Way participants from Greenfield-Central met with state lawmakers Monday. Visited were (from left) faculty adviser Mark Holzhausen, sophomore Steve Roberts, sophomore Sara McMillan, junior Catherine Hamilton, senior Kelly McNabb, senior Lindsey Gregory, senior Trent Taylor and senior Tyler Yensel.

Project Lead the Way (www.pltw.org) is a rigorous program that gives high school students hands-on experience in math and science.

G-C was one of about 10 high schools that participated in Rotunda Day. Hamilton estimated that she talked to 20 or 30 people over the course of several hours. She also demonstrated how to build a model and how to use the three-dimensional software program Revit Architecture.

"We're doing some lobbying; we're doing some show and tell," Mark Holzhausen, a technology education teacher at G-CHS, said of Rotunda Day. "It's experience ... promoting something that they believe in."

State Sen. Beverly Gard spent about 20 minutes with the G-C students and was impressed by their knowledge.

"They're way ahead of me in technology," Gard said. "They're really enthusiastic about what they're doing. It's great to see that kind of enthusiasm and dedication."

State Rep. Bob Cherry took the G-C students up to the third floor for a look at the legislative chamber.

"These students are special from the standpoint that they're some of the brightest," Cherry said. year, more people know what it (PLTW) is. They're selling themselves."

Cherry was also pleased to hear that many of these bright students intend to attend in-state universities.

Tuesday marked Hamilton's second trip to the state house for Rotunda Day. She said she was more involved this time than she was two years ago because she knows more.

Hamilton is taking classes at G-CHS in civil engineering and architecture, digital electronics and engineering design and development. She is trying to decide between a career in architecture or civil engineering. If she chooses civil engineering, she plans to attend Rose-Hulman; if she chooses architecture, she plans to attend Ball State.

In a time when funding is tight, it's good for legislators to see how high school students are using technology, Gard said.

"It's been interesting over the years to see the displays and how what they're doing has advanced Gard said. "It's great for us to see the opportunities out there. They're being advocates for the program, and that's a great thing."